

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims in the application are amended claims 14-25 .

35 USC 103 REJECTIONS

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 USC 103 rejection of the previous claims.

The OA concedes that Choi fails to disclose the needles as being partially coated with a coating.

In contrast:

all of Choi's needles lack a head portion;

Choi needle 12 has a spherical tip, and has no sharpened portion;

Choi needle 13A has the shape of a nappe of a right circular cone, and lacks a rod member;

Choi needle 13B has the shape and orientation of an inverted and truncated nappe of a right circular cone, and lacks a sharpened portion which protrudes above the base member;

Choi needle 14 does not meet the specifications of applicant's claims. See Choi, Figs. 2(A) and 2(B).

Applicant further respectfully submits that Choi and Gabrusenok, taken singly or in combination, fails to teach or make obvious applicant's claimed subject matter.

With respect to claims 22 and 23, the OA further concedes that Choi also fails to disclose the claimed materials for the needles and/or coatings.

In light of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the obviousness rejection with a view toward withdrawing same.

Conclusion

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is not convinced that the application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner promptly telephone the undersigned attorney for applicant in an attempt to facilitate the prosecution, and/or to narrow the issues for appeal, if necessary.

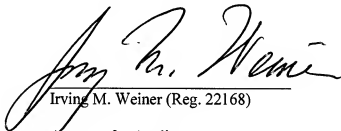
Form PTO/SB/30, a Petition for Extension, and a PTO-2038 for the fees are enclosed.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

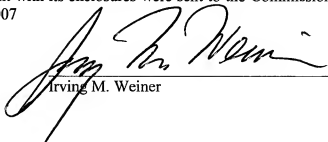
Date: September 12, 2007

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Certificate of Filing

I hereby certify that the foregoing amendment with its enclosures were sent to the Commissioner for Patents by EFS-web on September 12, 2007


Irving M. Weiner